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Setting the Scene Game Preview

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SETTING THE SCENE

Game Preview

Site: Auburn Arena (9,121)

Tipoff: 9 p.m. ET

Listen: GS Sports Network (pregame show starts a half hour before tipoff) - WHKN 94.9 FM (Statesboro), 630 AM WBMQ (Savannah), 1370 AM WLOP (Jesup)

Watch: SEC Network

Series: GS trails 7-0

Last meeting: L, 62-92, (away)

Probable Starters:

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#5 - Trey Dawkins

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Georgia Southern opens its 90th season and 49th Division I campaign of men's basketball Tuesday when the Eagles travel to No. 24/23 Auburn.
- The game will be televised on the SEC Network and can be streamed on WatchESPN.com.
- The Eagles are 4-2 under head Coach Mark Byington in season openers.
- GS is 32-15 in season openers in the Division I era and 3-11 in season openers on the road.
- Georgia Southern was picked third in the Sun Belt in the conference's Preseason Men's Basketball Coaches Poll. Quan Jackson was named first-team All-Sun Belt, Ike Smith was named second-team all-league and Isaiah Crawley was named third team all-conference.
- The Sun Belt poll follows a trend of preseason praise for the Eagles. Athlon, Lindy's, Street & Smith's and The Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook all have the Eagles picked in the top-3 of the conference.
- The Eagles posted 20 wins in consecutive seasons for the first time in 30 years. The last time GS won 20 games two years in a row was in 1987-88 (24-7) and 1988-89 (22-6). GS has three 20-win seasons in the last five years.
- GS ranked fourth in the country in field goal percentage (.499) and 15th in scoring, averaging 82.6 points a game last year. The Eagles scored 80-plus 18 times, 90-plus seven times and over 100 three times. GS shot 50 percent or better in 17 contests and 60 percent or better three times.
- Senior Ike Smith received a medical hardship waiver to regain a year of eligibility. Smith, who has amassed 1,480 career points and 492 rebounds, played in the first 10 games of the 2018-19 season and averaged 14.7 points and 5.7 boards for the Eagles.

- Smith needs 21 points and eight rebounds to become the fifth Eagle with 1,500 career points and 500 rebounds, joining Jeff Sanders (1,861 pts, 893 reb), Kevin Anderson (1,843 pts, 986 reb), Matt Simpkins (1,684 pts, 642 reb) and Louis Graham (1,581 pts, 908 reb).
- Coming off the program's first-ever Final Four appearance, Auburn begins the season ranked No. 24 in the preseason Associated Press Top 25 Poll and 23rd in the Coaches Poll.
- It is the sixth time the Tigers have been ranked in the annual preseason poll in program history and just the second time in back-to-back seasons. Auburn opened the 2018-19 campaign at No. 11.
- The Tigers were picked fourth in the SEC Preseason Poll.

The Series

- The Eagles trail the series 7-0 and lost the last meeting 92-62 in Auburn Arena in 2015.
- The Eagles are 0-5 against Auburn on the road.
- Fifth-year senior Ike Smith is the only Eagle on the roster who played against the Tigers in the last meeting.
- Last Meeting - 11/20/15 - Auburn Arena: Cinmeon Bowers tallied 15 points and 13 boards to lead Auburn to a 92-62 home win over Georgia Southern.
- Georgia Southern erased a 10-point first half deficit in the final minutes of the first half with a 10-2 run to trail by just one at the halftime break. The Tigers, however, went on a 24-10 run over the first eight minutes of the second half to extend the lead to 61-48 with 12 minutes left in the game.
- The Eagles committed 26 fouls, sending the Tigers to the free throw line where they made 25-of-33. Auburn ruled the paint with 38 points inside while the Eagles converted 14 Auburn turnovers into 12 points.
- Mike Hughes led the Eagles with 15 points and was 5-of-10 from the field with four rebounds while Ike Smith grabbed seven rebounds to go with 13 points.